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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Executive Director
Deputy Director for Administration

FROM:

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Director of Security

SUBJECT:

The US Media and the Threats Against Qaddafi (U)

- 1. Since August 1981, there have been three totally false instances in which the United States media has stated that the Central Intelligence Agency intended to kill Qaddafi of Libya. The first was the 3 August 1981 Newsweek story (Tab A), which stated that one of Central Intelligence Agency's proposals submitted to a congressional committee was to remove Qaddafi from power by force. This seemed to imply to Newsweek that Central Intelligence Agency was going to kill Qaddafi. (U)
- 2. Approximately three weeks later, Jack Anderson noted in his column of 25 August 1981 (Tab B), that the Central Intelligence Agency intended to kill Qaddafi by using, among other exotic techniques, a special poison ring. Subsequent to these stories, Newsweek mounted a nationwide television campaign to increase its circulation and readership. Seeking to capitalize on its 3 August 1981 story, it is currently running this oneminute promotion several times each week on the three major television networks. The ad (Tab C) notes that "---we disclosed the CIA had marked him (Qaddafi) for possible death." (U)
- 3. It is impossible to precisely determine what impact this incorrect reporting has had on Qaddafi. What is certain is that an uncomfortably large segment of the United States population probably believes the Central Intelligence Agency is out to get Qaddafi; therefore, it is not difficult to believe that Qaddafi also considers these reports to be true. (C)

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Deputy Director Inman, left, Graham, Walters and Wilson: A conspicuous absence on the short list for Casey's successor

defense. He promised to give the intelligence committee material this week that would "lay this controversy to rest." At a 25-minute meeting Friday in Howard Baker's office, according to one source present, Casey was "showing signs of the strain." Baker ultimately called all GOP members of the intelligence panel and urged them "not to get too far out in front until we are in possession of all the facts." Senate Democrats also began stressing the need for due process in deciding Casey's fate.

Official scrutiny of Casey's business record over the years has not prevented him from serving as chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs and president of the Export-Import Bank. But newspaper stories a fortnight ago disclosed that two Federal judges in the past year had cited Casey for financial improprieties

in connection with a failed agribusiness concern, Multiponics, Inc. And Democratic Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan said the intelligence panel, aided by ten FBI agents, planned a "thorough" investigation of Casey's taxes and other business ties—including some minor holdings not disclosed at his CIA confirmation hearings.

Harebrained' Schemes: Goldwater and others on the Hill were clearly less concerned with Casey's corporate affairs than with his judgment as boss of the CIA. Choosing Hugel—who held a relatively minor post in the Reagan campaign—as deputy director for operations has been the most controversial of Casey's decisions at the agency, but it is not the only one to be called into question. He also signed off on a proposal for new watered-down restrictions on the CIA without even reading it; a White House aide admitted. Moreover, some Con-

gressional sources said there was a feeling that Casey was too willing to approve "harebrained" schemes. After learning about the Libyan operation, for example, members of the House intelligence committee took the unusual step of writing directly to the President to object, bypassing Casey and Hugel. During the Carter Administration, such objections were registered verbally with former CIA director Stansfield Turner when he briefed the panel on covert plans. But Casey generally avoids such briefings, and members of the intelligence committee were not sure that their concerns would be passed on and considered.

At the White House, reaction to Casey's deepening problems did not show up in the kind of blind loyalty that bound Jimmy Carter so tightly to his banking buddy Bert Lance, who ultimately resigned under fite as director of the Office of Management and

A Plan to Overthrow Kaddafi

To many of his critics on Capitol Hill, the real question about CIA Director William J. Casey has always been his capacity for sound judgment. Last week, as pressure for Casey's resignation mounted, sources began to leak details of a planned CIA operation that seemed to underscore those doubts. Newsweek learned that the operation, presented to the House Select Committee on Intelligence by former deputy director of covert operations Max Hugel and approved by Casey and the White House crisis management team, was a large-scale, multiphase and costly scheme to overthrow the Libyan regime of Col. Muammar Kaddafi. The CIA's goal,

sources said, was Kaddafi's "ultimate" removal from power. To members of the House intelligence committee who reviewed the plan, that phrase seemed to imply Kaddafi's assassination. And in a step that experts said was "rare" in the secret records of Congressional oversight of CIA activities, the committee sent a strongly worded letter of protest directly to Ronald Reagan.

The details of the plan were sketchy, but it seemed to be a classic CIA destabilization campa Apapeaved For Release 2005/08/15

element was a "disinformation" program designed to embarrass Kaddafi and his government. Another was the creation of a "counter government" to challenge his claim to national leadership. A third—potentially the most risky—was an escalating paramilitary campaign, probably by disaffected Libyan nationals, to blow up bridges, conduct small-scale guerrilla operations and demonstrate that Kaddafi was opposed by an indigenous political force. The cost in covert American aid was high enough, sources said, that the CIA needed Congressional permission to draw funds from a special reserve account. So far, the sources said, Congress has not approved the funds.

Members of the House committee, briefed by Hugel, were skeptical about the feasibility and objectives of the plan. U.S. agents are forbidden to conduct assassination attempts on for-

eign leaders, although a plot by the Libyans themselves presumably would be legal. Casey nevertheless denied that the CIA planned to kill Kaddafi—but the committee, one source said, "just doesn't trust Casey" and fired off its protest. Last week the White House said the letter is going through the "regular clearance process" and had not yet reached the President. As to the operation itself, which could have begun even without Congressional approval, the Administration had

AP Mark reinstein—Protoreporters

Kaddafi, Hugel: The goal was 'ultimate' removal

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TAB

WASHINGTON POST

25 August 1981

Hare-Brainec CIA Schemes Keep Multiplying

Remember the plot to dose up Cuban Premier Fidel Castro so his beard would fall out? The contract with Mafia hit men to knock him off? The CIA agent who plugged in a lie detector and blew out all the lights in a dingy Singapore hotel? The clandestine military operations that backfired in Cuba, Laos and Iraq? The James Bonds responsible for

those slapstick misadventures are hack in business. The trick or treat branch of the CIA is now propounding more of those hare-brained schemes that produced such fiascos during the 1960s and 1970s

Anyone who has noticed the unnerving glitter in the eves of a CTA strategist or has attended a planning session of the covert crowd can only wonder what new undercover operation the CIA may be about to loose.

A few weeks ago, for example, a report appeared in print that the CIA was plotting a multiphase operation to rid the world of Libya's radical ruler, Muammar Qaddafi. Not so, the White House protested.

It was explained in another news leak that the operation was targeted caused understandable consternation Journalistic responsibility forbids in Mauritania. Still another leak of me, therefore, from publishing any fered further clarification; the target further details. was Mauritius; not Mauritania. The To administer the poison, the conformer is an island in the Indian spirators at the CIA have considered Ocean with a comparatively small using a tiny dart disguised as one of population that can be alienated.

The truth is that the CIA plotters still have Qaddafi in their sights. If this should be denied by a White ting, which could squirt the poison House aide, with eyes cast heavenward, let me clarify: the White House, though aware of the CIA mindset, has not approved any scheme to overthrow or liquidate the troublesome Qaddafi.

Meanwhile back in the protected corridors of the CIA, there have been whispers about slipping an assassin into Libya to do away with Qaddafi. One scheme would have the hit man pose as a mercenary and join a ring of mercenaries in Qaddafi's employ.

The secret killer, according to one CIA scenario, would carry a deadly poison that would have a delayed effect. There would be no symptoms for the first 48 hours. Then the unfortunate Qaddaff would come down with a fever that could not be distinguished from various viral diseases. This would be followed by gradual paralysis, a coma and then death. No trace of the poison would be left in his system.

CIA sources have given my associate Ron McRae a complete description of this unpleasant potion, a common derivative that can be du-

against Mauritania, not Libya. This plicated in almost any chemical lab.

the black flies that infest the Libyan desert. Another possibility would be to equip the assassin with a Borgia into Qaddafi's food or drink.

There is one bugaboo that troubles the more thoughtful strategists. Assassination is a game that anyone can play, and the tempestuous Qaddafi has his own killer squads that might ambush President Reagan in retaliation. The greater contribution to world stability might be a solemn pact among heads of state that they won't try to knock each other off.

Footnote: Other plots are hatching in the back rooms of the CIA, and the public should be made aware of the wildest of them. These will be reported in future columns.

Watch on Waste: The State Department apparently pictures itself as a junior branch of the National Archives. The trouble is, our bureaucratic squirrels in Foggy Bottom are preserving documents that have limited interest, to say the least. At a cost of more than \$200,000 a year. the Passport Office is storing some 140 million documents that accompanied passport applications over the past 100 years. The stuff fills more than 7,500 file cabinets.



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PROGRAM

Commercial Announcement

STATION

WJLA TV

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January 14, 1982 6:00 PM

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Washington, DC

SUBJECT

Full Text

ANNOUNCER: Qaddafi. Our competition wrote about him as a madman. At Newsweek we saw a method in his madness. so dangerous we revealed he was sheltering the infamous terrorist, Carlos. So feared, we disclosed the CIA had marked him for possible death. And so arrogant, we reported the decision to confront him in the Gulf of Sidra, two days before the air battle that stunned the world, but not the readers of Newsweek. We don't fit the mold. We break it.

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Robert Taylor

Chairman, SECOM

FROM:

William R. Kotapish Director of Security

SUBJECT:

"Soviet Strategic Bomber Photographed at

Ramenskoye", Aviation Week and Space Technology

25) 1. Your office informed us that the <u>Aviation Week</u> photograph of 14 December 1981 depicting the new Soviet bomber, code name RAM P,

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